Dear Dr. Nelson, 5/13/95

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

This requires no response and I do not ask it of you. I would like to know that it has reached you, however. What I sent you earlier that I've asked Jeremy Gunn to get to you was returned. I have no ulterior purpose and my plans for writing do not include the board.

Please excuse my typing. I'm 82, unwell and rather limited what I can do.

I am the author of the first book on the Warren Commission and the JFK assassination. My ninth published book (several exist as manuscripts for the record for our history) has just appeared. I suggest you may find it informative, including in the area of the board's work and specifically with regard to records that did exist and have never been available, what I believe lawyers call corpus delicti records in particular, along with official perjury to make them unavailable.

For all that I have written critically of so many people I have yet to get a call or a letter from any one of them complaining that I wrote of him inaccurately or unfairly. In one of the dozen or so FOIA lawsuits I filed to bring withheld information to light the Department of Justice did defend proven perjury by telling that court, which actually did accept it as a defense, that I could make such allegations ad infinitim because I knew more about the JKF assassination and its investigations than anyone working for the FBI.

I have deeded those records, with no quid pro quo, all my work and my property to local Hood College. Some are there now. If you have any question about me, althpugh I have not asked him, Dr. Gerald McKnight of the history department will confirm the above and can tell you all you may want to know about me. And not he alone in academe.

I am alone in those writing about the assassination and its investigations in not having anything to do with the multitudionous theories and in restricting myself to the official evidence. I also had a relationship with the most conservative member of the Warren Commission, Senator Richard Russell. What happened to him is what I hope you would not want to happen to you. I believe this is true of the other members of the board. What he told me is not confirmed by copies of records from his archive and from those of Senator John Sherman Cooper, who agree with Russell in their dissent over the most basic conclusion of the Warren Report that was memory-holed on them. If you are interested I have a lengthy and unpublished article on this, "Senator Russell Dissents" that I'll be glad to copy and send you.

Russell and Cooper at the least of the Commission, came to understand that the role into which most of them had been coerced is not one that can be properly served on a part-time basis. That I believe is the position in which the members of the board are. What is and is not done is in your name and in history it will be regarded as your responsibility. Whether or not you understood it.

I doubt very much whether you or any other member of the board, including those who publicly and repeatedly expressed prejudicial opionions, have the slightest idea of what you are involved in and how in our history you will be reflected because of it. I am sure this is to at least a very great degree true of your staff. From what is public that I know, you have been inindated with nuts and their nutty notions. You have not heard from those, particularly in academe, who do not think and teach that way. My own opinion is that with the staff seeing to it that you were subjected to nothing else it controlled what you could and dould not know and in that way also controlled what you could and could not decide. Some of this may well have been because the staff was not really informed but some is not of that description. I cite two extremes.

The notes of the autopsy did exist at the time the chief prosector testified before the Warren Commission. They were in hand and used in his testimony. When I sought them at the Archives in 1966 they were not in the two places the testimony said they were and they have not been seen since. There is little that can be more of an "assassination record" than that. And of this your staff did know because I saw to it. You will, if you are interested, find considerable detail on this in my current book, NEVER AGAIN! I enclose the not exactly descriptive page from the publisher's catalogue in it and my today's letter to Jeremy Gunn which refers to it.

One page 19 of the May 4 transcript you asked abou the change from "original" to "record" copies. Ms Walter did not fully inform you in her explanation and I believe that is bcause she was not in a position to. Aside from what agencies regard as their "record" copies they have copies that not only are not identical, they also include information not on other copies. They can be identical, and in one of my FOIA lawsuits I put into the record copies of the supposed identical FBI investigative reports that contradicted each other. I do not suggest this is typical. But it is real.

As a lead on withheld records I showed members of your staff a file cabinet of appeals I filed with the Department of Justice then appeals chief. He asked that I make them full and complete in history's interest and I took an enormous amount of time to do that. I did it not only from knowledge, I documented those appeals extensively. Your staff has never even looked at them.

My purpose is merely to inform you. I could extend this enormously but I do not believe that is necessary and I do not want to waste any of the limited time that remains for me that I can use to the degree possible for me for seeking to perfect the record for our history. I regret that the time I have spent trying to inform the board appears to have been entirely wasted. If the information I did provide reached the board.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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